

Message Text

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11

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 JUSE-00 FBIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCA-01 /034 W

----- 042297

R 281257Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2954

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

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DEPT FOR A/SY/I

KUWAIT FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ASEC, BA

SUBJECT : GULF FERTILIZER DEAL

REFERENCE : (A) MANAMA 0463, (B) MEMO FROM CHIEF, DIVISION
OF INVESTIGATIONS, SY TO RSO KUWAIT DATED
MARCH 26, 1976

1. RSO AND EMBASSY HAVE ASCERTAINED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE
TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN REF B.

(A) MANAGER OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK WHO WAS IN BAHRAIN
DURING TIME IN QUESTION, I.E., LATE 1974-EARLY 1976, HAS BEEN
TRANSFERRED TO DUBAI, UAE WHERE HE MANAGES THE COMMERCIAL BANK.

(B) RECORDS OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK IN BAHRAIN PERTAINING
TO FERTILIZER CASE WERE LOST IN BANK FIRE WHICH DESTROYED
MOST OF LOCAL RECORDS IN OCTOBER 1975.

(C) GENERAL MANAGER OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK BAHRAIN
BRANCH, WHO WAS IN SAME POSITION DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION,
IS OUT OF BAHRAIN THIS WEEK.

(D) CHIEF OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID)
INFORMALLY INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER LAST WEEK THAT CID HAD
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NOT CONDUCTED A "FORMAL INVESTIGATION" OF THE FERTILIZER

CASE SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL COMPLAINTS/CHARGES MADE
LOCALLY. EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE CID WOULD BE
UNCOOPERATIVE IN FBI'S PURSUIT OF INVESTIGATION HOWEVER.

(E) THE STAMPS USED ON THE AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF
LIQUID FERTILIZER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1974 ARE SIMPLE BAHRAIN
POSTAGE STAMPS OF TWENTY, TEN AND FIVE FILS (APPROXIMATELY
FIVE CENTS, TWO CENTS AND LESS THAN ONE CENT U.S.), NOT THE
KIND OF STAMP USED ON OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS HERE.

2. THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF REPORTING ON THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF THE FERTILIZER DEAL. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE
INVESTIGATING AGENCY BE GIVEN COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING WHICH, TO
THE BEST OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY, REPRESENTS ALL THE EMBASSY
REPORTING ON THE QUESTION:

- (A) MANAMA 73 DATED JANUARY 19, 1975
- (B) ABU DHABI 176 DATED JANUARY 22, 1975
- (C) MANAMA 132 DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1975
- (D) MANAMA 472 DATED APRIL 17, 1975

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE A FILE COPY BUT WE UNDERSTAND
THERE WAS A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO SENATOR
MAGNUSON IN MARCH OR APRIL 1975 ON THIS SUBJECT.

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